

Serial No.: 09/841,473
Title: Take-up reel with Uni-Directional Speed Governed Retractor
Amendment

means for applying a unidirectional viscous torque on said spool to limit the rotational velocity of said spool only in the rewind direction.

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are pending in the application. All claims stand rejected.

The claims have been amended to substantially the condition they were in as of the time of the March 12, 2003 Ex Parte Re-Examination Advisory Action with the exception of new claim 22, which claims the present invention in clearer means-plus-function language.

In the Advisory Action, the Examiner determined that the 37 C.F.R. §1.131 Declaration submitted by applicants did not overcome the rejections because it did not show that the invention, as claimed, having a viscous clutch and a uni-directional clutch was in applicants' possession before March 8, 1999. The filing date of the relevant prior art reference (Patent No. 6,158,684 to Hedlund) is February 1, 1999. Applicants are submitting a supplemental Declaration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 to show that a concept comprising a viscous clutch and a uni-directional clutch was in applicants' possession prior to February 1, 1999 and that applicants' diligently worked toward an actual reduction to practice in the form of a prototype of that concept on March 8, 1999. Accordingly, applicants' date of invention is prior to February 1, 1999 and therefore Hedlund should be removed as a reference.

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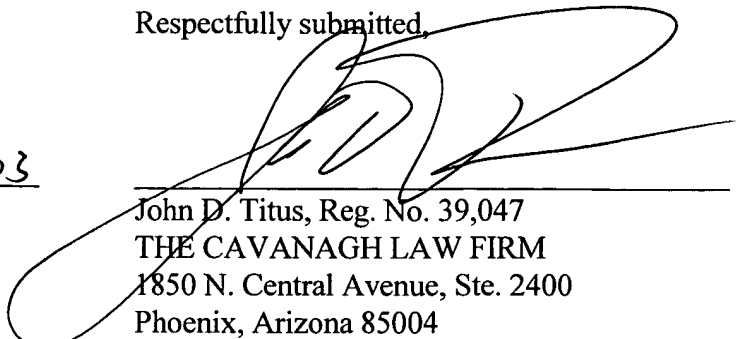
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Conclusion

No new matter is introduced by the amendments herein. Based on the foregoing, applicants believe that all claims under consideration are in a condition for allowance and reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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